

DOCKET SECTION

PRESIDING OFFICER'S
RULING NO. R97-1/71

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268

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Postal Rate and Fee Changes

Docket No. R97-1

PRESIDING OFFICER'S RULING SCHEDULING APPEARANCE OF WITNESSES

(November 25, 1997)

Presiding Officer's Ruling R97-1/54 adjusted the procedural schedule to accommodate discovery and cross-examination on Postal Service evidence that initially had been provided as library references. Hearings to receive evidence from witnesses sponsoring these materials were scheduled for December 1-4, 1997. Attachment A sets forth the schedule when these Postal Service witnesses will appear to testify and respond to cross-examination on these materials.

Cross-examination has been requested for one Postal Service witness (Seckar) who is unable to appear during the December 1-4 period. The hearing will be reconvened on December 10 to receive this testimony.

Presiding Officer's Ruling R97-1/64 established the dates for designation of written cross-examination. Designation of written discovery responses provided by the Postal Service as an institution are to be filed by December 5, 1997, so that they can be incorporated in the transcript of hearings of December 10, 1997.

Finally, a letter from the Presiding Officer, dated October 15, 1997, requested that the Postal Service provide as a witness the author or some individual competent to answer questions about library references H-220, and H-236, Inspection Service reports concerning the Management Operating Data Systems (MODS). On

November 12, 1997, the Postal Service responded that witness Degen would be qualified to respond to questions on these reports and that a Postal Service manager with direct responsibility over MODS could be made available to respond to questions.¹ In order to allow these witnesses, the Commission, and interested parties, to focus their attention on questions related to MODS, I will schedule their appearance for December 10, 1997. No prepared written direct testimony need be submitted by these witnesses – qualifications will be established on direct examination. Participants wishing to cross-examine should provide notice by December 5, 1997.

RULING

1. The schedule for appearance of Postal Service witnesses testifying on materials initially filed as library references is set forth in Attachment A.
2. Postal Service witnesses appearing to respond to questions from the Commission concerning MODS are scheduled to appear December 10, 1997.
3. Designations of written responses to discovery requests provided by the Postal Service as an institution are due December 5, 1997.


Edward J. Gleiman
Presiding Officer

¹ Letter from Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr., Postal Service Chief Counsel, Ratemaking.

SCHEDULE FOR HEARINGS TO RECEIVE
THE SUPPLEMENTAL TESTIMONY OF
POSTAL SERVICE WITNESSES

Witness

Monday, December 1, 1997

Daniel (USPS-ST-43)
Smith (USPS-ST-46)
Smith (USPS-ST-45)

Tuesday, December 2, 1997

Pafford (USPS-ST-48)
McGrane (USPS-ST-44)

Wednesday, December 3, 1997

Harahush (USPS-ST-49)
Lion (USPS-ST-51)
Treworgy (USPS-ST-52)
Baron (USPS-ST-53)
Talmo (USPS-ST-50)
Hatfield (USPS-T-25 continued)

Thursday, December 4, 1997

Crum (USPS-T-28 continued)
Degen (USPS-ST-47)

Wednesday, December 10, 1997

Seckar (USPS-T-26 continued)
Degen concerning LR-H-220 &
LR-H-236
_____ concerning MODS Operations